

# Adler's Adventures

VOL. 3

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*Adler enjoying a walk in the rain at 8 months.*

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## Happy New Year!

I have been a very busy puppy these last 3 months! The fall and holiday seasons were full of fun events, exciting outings, and time with family. Now that I'm over 6 months old, my puppy raisers have been able to take me with them to all sorts of new places. I have wonderful manners when I'm out working and I love going on adventures!

This newsletter covers from 6.5 months to 9 months. Let me show you what I have been up to!

As always, I want to say a **HUGE** "Thank you!" to Sepulveda Building Materials Charity Golf Tournament for your support! I am proud to show off my puppy-in-training jacket with your name everywhere I go!

*Adler at 7 months wearing his GDA jacket in front of the Historic Old Mission in Santa Barbara, CA.*





# Happy fall, y'all!



Adler at 6.5 months

## Pumpkin Patch

At the end of October, my puppy raiser took me to visit our local pumpkin patch. There were so many exciting smells and new things to see! It was right next door to a farm, so even though I didn't get to see any of the animals, they smelled very interesting.

Walking around gave me a lot of training opportunities and new experiences. I got to practice walking on a bunch of different surfaces, like dirt, grass, wood chips, and hay. I met the resident scarecrows, who looked very cool but didn't walk or talk like I thought they would. There were several other dogs there that I watched run through the field, but I behaved very nicely in my jacket and was a wonderful representative of GDA.



## Happy Halloween

Since the day I came home, people have been saying that I remind them of Eeyore. I think it's my big puppy-dog eyes. So Halloween was my chance to let my inner Eeyore shine through! Don't I look cute in my costume?

Even my puppy raiser and my golden retriever sister, Kiara, dressed up!



Here I am in the photobooth with my friends Bosley and Ezri at our October puppy raiser meeting! All the puppies dressed up for a Halloween party.



# Village Venture

I went on an outing with some of my fellow GDA puppies-in-training to the "Village Venture," the autumn street fair in my town. It was my first experience in a crowded area and I did a fantastic job! There were all sorts of fascinating things to see: lots of people, kids in costumes, other dogs, and different vendors along the side of the street. We mostly observed and walked around so I could get used to the busy environment. Lots of people came up to me to say "hi," so I got to practice my greeting manners. Plus we got to watch a small parade with a marching band and ride a shuttle bus to and from the parking area. I handled the whole adventure very well. My puppy raiser was so proud of me!



*Riding the shuttle.*



*Watching the parade.*



Here I am with the group! Puppies-in-training from left to right: Nikita, Glenn, Adler, Ace



## Thanksgiving

There are plenty of things I'm thankful for: my wonderful school, my family, my golden retriever, my toys, my food, all my wonderful friends, and ESPECIALLY my incredible sponsors!

*7 months*



*6.5 months*

I brought home two pumpkins from the pumpkin patch!



# Graduation at GDA



I attended the GDA graduation in October to celebrate all the new guide dog teams! We knew several dogs graduating from our local area group and it was very exciting to see some of my friends up on stage! I hope that one day I'll follow in their footsteps and graduate with my own blind partner!

## "A" Brother Reunion



6.5 months old



After graduation, I met up with my brothers Ace (center) and Arlo (right). We were all taking notes during the ceremony so that when our time comes for formal training, we can pass with flying colors!



This is me and my new friend, Kerris! He's about a month older than I am. Aren't we handsome?



# Training with friends!

I like to meet up with some of my fellow GDA puppies-in-training (and other pet friends too) to walk on our local walking trail and practice our obedience.

Sometimes, our area leader will bring a whole bag of human toys and treats to use as distractions while we're working with our puppy raisers. I have to not respond to food on the ground, singing animatronic plush dogs, even kids that like to bounce rubber balls right in front of me! It's pretty tough to ignore everything, but I'm proud to say that I've never been tempted enough to grab a hot dog off the floor as I walk past!



*Adler and Ace (7 months) practicing their "down-stays."*



*Must resist the cookie!*



# Adventures of a GDA Pup 6.5 - 8 months

## Rock the Vote!

In November, I accompanied my puppy raiser to perform her civic duty. Because I behaved so well while she was in the voting booth, she let me wear the sticker!



*Outside the polling place.*



## Kennel Stays

After I turned 6 months old, I started visiting the kennel for playdates and, eventually, overnight stays. The GDA kennel is a super fun place that is full of dogs and bustling with activity! I'll get to live there during my formal guide training, but in the meantime, I just get to be there for short stints to get used to the environment. I love it there!



## On the job

My puppy raiser loves taking me with her every where she goes! I'm very well mannered out in my jacket and I'm always excited to explore new places and try new things!

*Top left: Watching the fish in a koi pond.  
Top right: Shopping for holiday decor.  
Bottom left: Waiting patiently during a GDA meeting.*

## Concert Pup

One of my puppy raisers works at school of music at a university, so as a part of her work, she and I attend a lot of concerts and recitals. My favorite this semester was the percussion ensemble. They play a whole bunch of different instruments that make really interesting sounds. This time they even made a drum set out of plastic bins. How cool is that?!





# Adler goes to The Getty!



Over Thanksgiving weekend, my puppy raisers and some of their extended family took me to visit The Getty Museum in Los Angeles. I was on my best behavior walking through the exhibits and around the grounds. This was the biggest outing I had been on so far and my puppy raisers said I handled it like a total pro!



Adler (7 months) and puppy raiser Karen.

## Taking the Tram

I rode a tram for the first time during our visit! It was a great learning experience that simulated what it's like to ride public transportation.

When the tram first approached the platform, I was very curious about the weird “whoosh” noise it made. But after it came to a stop and the doors opened, I didn't hesitate to walk on board with my puppy raiser. I found a comfortable place to sit (under the seat like a working guide), and enjoyed the ride up to the museum. At the end of our visit, we rode the tram back to where we had parked and I navigated the second trip like a seasoned traveler! Look how nicely I'm waiting on the platform while the tram slows to a stop.



Adler exploring the main courtyard and overlooking the gardens.



What do you mean I can't play in the fountain?



Level P5, please!



# GDA Visitor Center Building Dedication



On December 10th, I attended the dedication and opening of the brand new Macki and Phil Singer Visitor and Education Center. GDA donors, sponsors, graduates, volunteers, puppy raisers, staff, family, friends, and a whole bunch of working guides and puppies-in-training gathered on campus to celebrate. After the ribbon cutting ceremony, we got to explore the new building and redesigned courtyard.



Look! I ran into my friends Bosley (left) and Palmer (center).



I got to take a picture on the brand new indoor graduation stage!



# Happy Holidays!



## Celebrating with my GDA friends

The San Gabriel Valley Puppy Raisers threw a wonderful holiday party/potluck to celebrate the season. The highlight of the evening was getting to meet Santa Claus!! I told him that I've been a very good boy this year and all I wanted for Christmas was to become a working guide dog and bring a smile to everyone I meet. And if he happened to have a few extra toys, I wouldn't mind finding them underneath the tree on Christmas morning.

And got to see my friends Bosley and Ezri who are also sponsored by Sepulveda Building Materials Charity Golf Tournament. Here we are pictured to the left: Adler (left), Ezri (center), and Bosley (right). We're proud to represent our awesome sponsor!

I also met the newest Sepulveda sponsored puppy, Frida (pictured above). She's an adorable little yellow lab and is such a sweetheart already!

## Christmas Parade

I walked in a local Christmas parade with a group of my fellow GDA puppies-in-training. It was a opportunity for me to practice good behavior in a crowded place and stimulating environment. I was calm, collected, and focused on my work. My puppy raisers were very proud of me!

The theme of the parade was "Believe" which was perfect because GDA helps the blind believe in indepenence. The spectators loved us and our group won first place!



Showing off my decorated jacket!



Adler (8 months), puppy raiser Karen, and puppy-in-training Nikita.



All lined up for the parade!



# It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas



My puppy raiser made a bunch of holiday scarves and then had me model them. Which is your favorite?

## "Celebrate Christmas" Concert



*Adler at 7 months*

To kick off the holiday season, I went to the "Celebrate Christmas" event of the university where my puppy raiser works. It's a huge Christmas themed choral and orchestra concert, which was the perfect chance to practice my audience etiquette. I laid quietly at my handler's feet and no one even noticed I was there! Luckily, the music covered up my snoring.



Meet my biggest fans! Here I am with some of the members of the APU Men's Chorale. They always stop by to say "hi" to me at school. The guys even gave me a matching bowtie that I could wear to their concerts, so of course I wore it to "Celebrate Christmas!"

## Shopping



I was a very good helper while my puppy raiser shopped for her holiday gifts this year. We even stopped by the pet store to pick out some puppy toys. Would those happen to be for me?

## Christmas Eve

I attended a Christmas Eve church service with my family. And look! My snowflake scarf matched the twinkling lights.



'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house, not a creature was stirring, except for the puppy watching over the presents under the tree.



# Merry Christmas!



I spent a lovely, relaxing, and fun Christmas day at home with my puppy raising family.

In our household, Christmas is a season of giving. It's a wonderful extension of the Thanksgiving tradition of reflecting on what we are thankful for and then sharing the love and generosity we have received with others.

My family is so grateful that they have the opportunity to continue to give back all year-round through volunteering with Guide Dogs of America. They are so excited for my future and hope that someday I'll be able to give the gift of sight to my blind partner.

And in the spirit of gratitude and giving, my puppy raisers are so appreciative that you have given me your support during my time as a puppy-in-training as I work toward being re-gifted as a guide dog.

Thank you, Sepulveda Building Materials Charity Golf Tournament, for your gift to me and GDA!!

## Puppy Presents

On Christmas morning, I got to open my very own presents! And boy oh boy did I get spoiled this year. Kiara taught me how to unwrap them and guess what was inside the wrapping paper: NEW TOYS!



*Adler at 8 months*



# Adventures of a GDA Pup 8 - 9 months

## Ability Awareness Day



I was invited to participate in a local elementary school's "Ability Awareness Day," where students visit presenters and learn about different disabilities and how they can positively impact the lives of those individuals. Six of us GDA puppies-in-training and our puppy raisers were able to educate a whole bunch of kids about blindness, guide dogs, and the incredible work that Guide Dogs of America does for the visually impaired. My role for the day was to look cute and help teach the kids how to properly greet a service dog in training (and to remember to never distract a working guide dog). It was a great chance for me to practice my manners while being petted. Thanks to all the students who welcomed us to their school!



Above: before the presentation  
Left: GDA puppies-in-training from L to R: Adler, Nikita, Bosley, Alfie, Peggy, Glenn



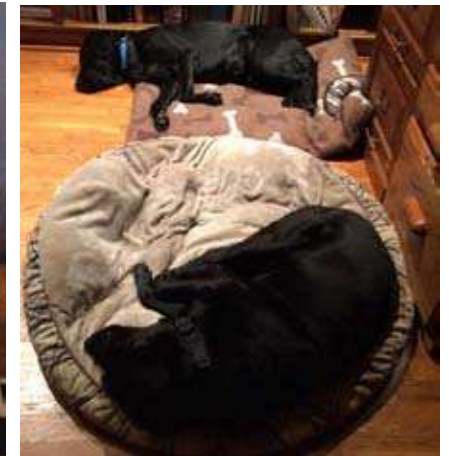
## Out of the Office



Over winter break, while the students were all home for the holidays, the university where my puppy raiser works was very empty. But instead of spending our days cooped up inside, we took advantage of the quiet campus and did some exploring during the lunch breaks. It was fun to get out of the office, but I was very excited to see all of my student friends again when the spring semester started!

## Puppy Sitting

I spent a few days with a puppy sitter while my family was away over the holidays. I had my very own mini vacation, complete with several post-Christmas outings and plenty of time to nap!



Adler (top) and career changed pet Jenny.

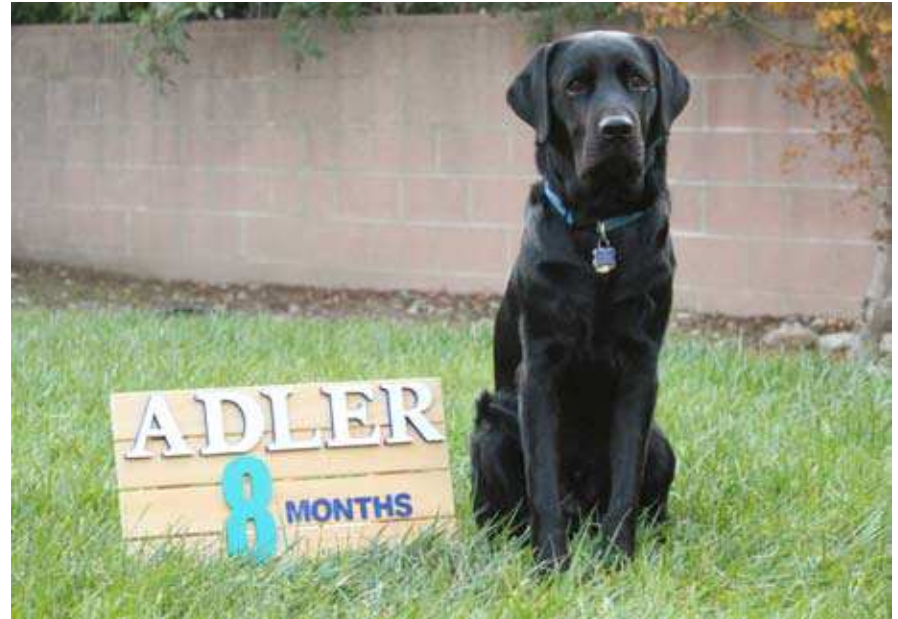


# Watch me grow!

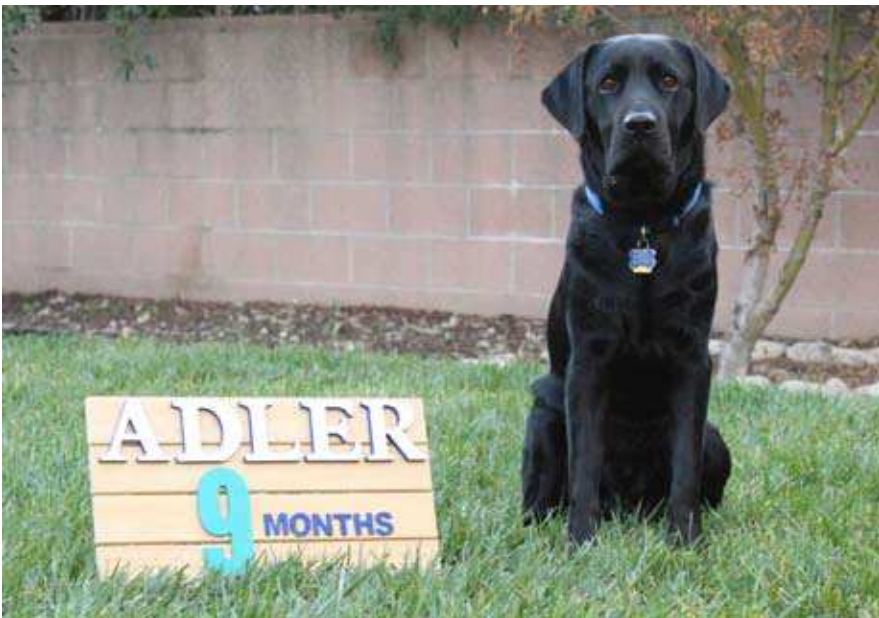
## 7 months



## 8 months



## 9 months



These last three months have been filled with new adventures! I have explored new places and have continued to polish my obedience. My puppy raisers are very pleased with my progress.

As I get older, my personality becomes more and more evident. I'm a sweetheart and a big love. Everyone I meet is a new friend. I take my work very seriously and I'm always excited to go out in my jacket. I am curious about the world, even the places I have not yet discovered. I am smart, playful, loyal, and steadfast. All wonderful traits that will serve me well as a working guide dog.



# Thank you!



I'm now 9 months old and halfway through my time as a puppy-in-training. Time is sure flying by! Thank you for your sponsorship and support on my journey to becoming a guide dog! I'm working hard to make you proud and I look forward to many more awesome adventures along the way!

Tail wags and puppy kisses,

